

Board of Library Trustees

Lois Czachorowski (2022) –Marian R. Encarnacion (2024) - Jennifer Marciello (2023) - Deborah McElhinney (2023) - Barry Oremland (2024).

The Library Board of Trustees is the governing body for Walpole's Public Library. The Board has the legal responsibility for the provision of library services, custody of library property, appointment of the library director, expenditure of funds, and determination of library policy. One of the primary functions of a board is to ensure that library services effectively meet community needs. Working with library administration, the Library Board of Trustees also assists in planning and goal setting.

The Walpole Public Library began the year under several COVID related restrictions. Although the library was open for its normal 59 hour per week schedule, the library operated under a maximum occupancy of 30 patrons in the building at one time. In January, the Board began the year by reviewing the Bulletin Board and Study Room policy. The updated policies were approved at their February meeting. Board authorized a website redesign in March. Library Administration was tasked with finding and interviewing potential vendors for the project. In April, the Board reviewed and updated the Library 2021 Calendar. On Monday, May 29, per new Massachusetts guidelines, the library fully re-opened without COVID restrictions. The maximum occupancy and mask mandate restrictions were lifted.

In June, Barry Oremland and Marian R. Encarnacion were elected to the Board. Barry Oremland was re-elected for a second term and Marian R. Encarnacion was elected in place of Sheila Harbst, who stepped board from the Board in June. At the June 2021 meeting, the Board of Trustees organized for fiscal year 2022 with Deborah McElhinney as Chairperson, Lois Czachorowski as Secretary, and Barry Oremland as Treasurer. In November, the Board voted to reinstate fines for overdue materials. The Board finished the year by reviewing the proposed FY2022 budget for the library. On December 29th, the Town of Walpole enacted a mask mandate for all public buildings because of the rise in COVID cases.

The Trustees would like to express a profound gratitude for the dedication and creativity of the library staff who kept the library going while being responsive to the needs of Walpole residents during the pandemic.

The Board of Trustees would like to thank the Friends of the Walpole Public Library for sponsoring the many wonderful programs throughout the year and the staff of the Walpole Public Library for their service to the residents of Walpole. The Trustees would also like to thank all who have helped this year with gifts, suggestions, and keen interest in the Library and its functions.

The Board meets on the third Tuesday of the month.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah McElhinney, Chairperson
Board of Library Trustees